

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Learning from Louisville's Civil War Monuments

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Intended grade level: 11th

Number of students: varies

Major content: U.S. History

Unit: Civil War

Lesson length: 1 class period (with field trip option)

Context

- After class discussion has focused on the developmental regional context of North and South, switch focus to Kentucky and the divided loyalties between Union and Confederate sympathizers in the state.
- Students should be able to describe the growing sectional attitudes, economic basis, and social differences between North and South that had been emerging throughout the nineteenth century to the time of the Civil War.
- Students should be able to define “border state” and the geographical importance and the social and attitudinal divisions emerging within them.
- Students should be able to contextually construct and comprehend the social, political, and economic complexities and divided family loyalties in Kentucky and the city of Louisville as an emerging city on the Ohio River.

Learning Objective(s)

- Students will be able to contextually construct the social complex of the state due to divided loyalties between the Union and Confederacy as well as discuss its economic and political position before the war.
- Students will be able to critically discuss various monuments, commemorating both the Union and Confederate war efforts in Louisville and in the state of Kentucky.
- Students will be able to name the majority of streets of Louisville and Kentucky counties named after Union and Confederate leaders.

Connections

- Students will be able to connect the Civil War to the presence of certain monuments and naming of streets in the City of Louisville as well as counties of Kentucky.
- Students will be able to connect Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville with the divided family loyalties between Union and Confederate forces.
- Students will be able to connect the present social struggles and current economic and political circumstances with the events of the Civil War in Kentucky and the role that Louisville played.

Standards

Program of Studies: Understandings	Program of Studies: Skills and Concepts	Related Core Content
Civil War Monuments and Cemeteries	Reading of primary sources, objectives, and motivations for building them.	SS-H-5.1.2 Primary sources allow individuals to experience history from the perspectives of people who lived it.
Divided Loyalties in Kentucky	Critical analysis and contextual understanding of the challenges toward the attitudes, thought, culture, and values that led to the Civil War.	SS-H-5.1.3 Cause-and-effect relationships can be analyzed by looking at multiple causation (e.g., individual influences, ideas and beliefs, technology, resources).

Resources, Media and Technology

- Primary sources from Union and Confederate families (letters, diaries) regarding loyalty.
- Overhead/computer to project images of monuments for VTS (Visual Thinking Skills) exercise.
- Use of YouTube for visual explanations of monuments and cemeteries.

Instructions

- Start of class: hand out pictures of monuments beginning with the Confederate monument and others in Louisville and in the state of Kentucky. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Civil_War_Monuments_of_Kentucky
- Ask students if they have seen any of the monuments before, and if so, can they elaborate on the purpose and reason for the monument. (5-10 minutes)
- Ask students “Why are there both Confederate and Union monuments in Louisville and Kentucky?” (2-3 minutes)
- Ask students “What was a ‘border state’ during the Civil War?” Follow-up question: “Were border states more united in the war than those Southern states that seceded (South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia, etc.)?” Briefly discuss. (5-8 minutes).
- Discuss the role of Kentucky and the city of Louisville during the war; discuss the divided loyalties that divided families, with brothers fighting each other, and communities engaged in feudal warfare. Read primary sources and draw geographical boundaries that Confederate and Union forces held. (20-30 minutes).
- Optional Field Trip: Visit the Confederate Monument between Second and Third streets (15 minutes). Along the way discuss the controversy that has been created by its presence. (Remind them that Louisville favored the Union).
- Optional Field Trip: Take arranged school bus to Cave Hill Cemetery. Have tour guide give mini-overview of the graves-how and where Union and Confederate soldiers are buried. Have students look at names and see if any are recognizable today. (90-120 minutes).
- Home/or next day activity (may finish with parental help): On a Kentucky county map of Louisville, color the geographical areas in blue that largely supported the Union, and in gray the areas that supported the Confederacy. Label other locations in the state where Civil War monuments are located.

Objective / Assessment Organizer			
Objective Number	Type of Assessment	Description of Assessment	Adaptations and/or Accommodations
Objective 1	Formative	Open response question: Take a primary source from a Confederate family and a primary source from a Union family and analyze allegiance and socio-cultural attitudes, contextual geographical placement (where they lived—city or rural, southern Kentucky or closer to Ohio, etc.), and socio-economic status and family history/geographical genealogy.	Extra time for ESL learners and students with IEP's.
Objective 2	Formative	Exam: Identify monuments, Louisville streets, and Kentucky counties; all named after Union/ Confederate leaders. Include multiple choice questions and map demonstration of geographical Union and Confederate divisions.	Extra time for ESL learners and students with IEP's.

- Home/or next day activity (may finish with parental help): On a street map of Louisville, overlay with a blue marker or crayon, the streets that are named after Union leaders, and overlay in gray the streets that are named after Confederate leaders.
- Have some students present their activity maps and compare/contrast (10 minutes).
- ESL and others with special need plans (IEPs) may have expanded time to complete activities.
- In tabular format, organize how objectives will be assessed. Include copies of assessment instruments and rubrics (if applicable).

Impact / Reflection

- Critical open-ended question: If Louisville was in Union control, why are there three Confederate monuments and only one Union monument?
- Critical open-ended question: Do divided loyalties continue to exist today in Kentucky? And if so, in what context? What long-term impact has the Civil War had on Kentucky today? With the growth of state nationalism and emphasis upon “heritage and not hate” in recent decades, what does this say about lingering attitudes and historical revisionism?
- Though much has changed since 1865, the divided impact of the Civil War in Kentucky continues to be felt. Reflection upon these areas:
- Busing Controversy in Louisville–1975.
- Social attitudes of East End vs. South End of Louisville–“Dixie Highway” associated with “southern” communities of the city.

Refinement / Lesson Extension/Further Reflection

- Possible study or Something to Think About/Explore: Research the 61 official Union and Confederate monuments in Kentucky. Do the monuments continue to reflect the community's attitudes and/or has time changed how they perceive their community's past. How much of the past is part of their lives?
- Note the numerous monuments for both sides—what does this say about Kentucky during the war?
- How did the lack of “reconstruction” in the State of Kentucky impact its social, economic, and political future?
- Create a questionnaire and survey different areas of the city of Louisville regarding attitudes.
- Create a questionnaire and survey different areas of the state of Kentucky where divided loyalties existed.
- Discuss the survey results and what the data may suggest.

Pictures of Monuments for VTS Exercise



Louisville's Confederate Monument between Second and Third streets.



32nd Indiana Regiment Memorial in Louisville, Kentucky. Union Side.



John Breckinridge Castleman Monument (located in the Cherokee Triangle, Cherokee Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky). Confederate Officer/Confederate Side.
Image from the Ronald Morgan Postcard Collection, Kentucky Historical Society.



Confederate Martyr's Monument in Jeffersontown, Kentucky (part of Louisville Metro).